



Ashley Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies
reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

Mike Petty

Ashley Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies
reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

Mike Petty

Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the
Cambridgeshire Weekly News, its sister title.

They are supplemented by some articles published in the
Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

Most were featured in my 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online at
[bit.ly/CambsCollection](https://archive.org/search.php?query=creator%3A%22Mike%20Petty%22)

<https://archive.org/search.php?query=creator%3A%22Mike%20Petty%22>

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.
I hope to publish these online one day. If you would like them in the meantime then please get in
touch.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library
where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the
1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – www.mikepetty.org.uk for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2018

Ashley Scrapbook

1897 05 21

Ashley fire, p3

1897 09 09

Some extraordinary scenes have been witnessed in the parish church of Ashley, near Newmarket, whose rector is very deaf and far from young. The curate arranged for a harvest thanksgiving service this week and the rector objected to the arrangements. At the morning service the organ was mute owing to the fact that a lady occupied the organist's seat by direction of the rector and when asked to supply tunes said she should please herself and did not play. The rector and curate entered the church together and the former, after some contention, began the service of the day. When the curate and congregation audibly objected the rector raised his voice to drown the dissent, and all the congregation but three left the church. Thereupon the rector summarily closed the service. Dissatisfaction has been rife amongst the villagers since the time when it is alleged the rector read the burial service at a wedding. The Rector accounts for the mistake by stating that his bookmark was purposely put in the wrong page.

1897 09 16

Ashley trouble, p3 *

1897 09 18

Ashley church, p3 *

1897 09 22

Ashley scandal – letter, p3

1897 10 04

The ancestors of the present generation have made ample provision for decent and orderly worship in Ashley; a valuable tract of land has been set aside to provide a decent stipend for a minister, and an excellent church provided within this century. What does one see now? Badly cultivated land, a deserted and desecrated building, its furniture wilfully damaged, its people driven to neighbouring churches, and their disgusted neighbours told that the law of England provides no efficient remedy. The scandalous state of affairs has been a grief and a sorrow to every true lover of the grand old national Church and many Nonconformists are equally sorry to see such a terrible state of things existing

1900

1900 01 26

Ashley rector, p3

1900 09 20

Ashley sewage inquiry

1901 01 10

Ashley drainage, p3

1902 03 13

Newmarket Justices considered a right of way from Ashley to Moulton along a drift road that shortens the journey by about two miles. The road led to nowhere and in order to reach the high road again it was necessary to trespass on land belonging to Sir Ernest Cassell. It was for the accommodation of two gentlemen and the cottagers on the farms. The difficulty only cropped up since building operations commenced at Moulton and workmen have used the drift as a short cut. Some palings were

Please make what use of this you may. Kindly remember where it came from – www.mikepetty.org.uk

put near the gate at one end to make it unclimbable but the men smashed them down. The Justices decided the men believed they had a right of way and dismissed the case.

1904 05 14

Ashley trap, p4 *

1907 11 30

Ashley water, p3

1909 04 02

Ashley pond – 09 04 02 p10

1910

1911 12 01

The trial of the men charged with burglary at Ashley Post Office heard that police had kept them under surveillance and posted officers at three large houses in the district. Nothing was reported during the night but in the morning the postmaster discovered the office had been broken into and money and postal orders stolen. Police were soon on the scene, armed with revolvers and a gun they raided a house where they found three of the prisoners sitting around the fire. 11 12 01f

1912 06 28

Theft of mangolds from farm at Ashley – 12 06 28g

1913 05 09

Ashley Plough Inn child death

1920

1920 01 07

Rats Killed, Up to December 3rd last the number of rats killed in the county and paid for by Cambs County Council under the Rats Order, was 35,516. The districts concerned were: Little Abington (number of rats killed 504), Ashley (980), Balsham (2,718), Borough Green (358), Bottisham (999), Cheveley (631). Chippenham (838), Great Chishill (322), Croxton (225), Dullingham (1,205), Duxford (754), Elsworth (39), Fordham (8,072), Fowlmere (489), Harston (322), Hauxton (186). Heydon (1,593), Hildersham (236). Horseheath (324), Ickleton (1,095), Isleham (3,809), Kennett (1,422). Kirtling (396), Kneesworth (549), Linton (584), Lode (548), Melbourn (442), Newton (160), Pampisford (429), Sawston (332), Shepreth (313). Shudy Camps (1.38), Snailwell (786), Soham (2,896), Stetchworth (1,105) Swaffham Prior (1,032), Thriplow (464), Waterbeach (967), West Wickham (995), Whittlesford (324), Great Wilbraham (846), Wood Ditton (2,017).

1925 07 09

A traction engine driver was fined for assaulting Octavia Bocock, farmer and a well-known cricketer of Ashley. He had seen the man with his traction engine on the road near his pond where it had stopped to take water. He had no right to do so without permission. The driver said he had permission from the foreman to take two or three pails of water as he could get plenty of clean water at Lydgate. Bocock said he would stand in front of the engine until he paid him 5s. but the driver drove on.

1926 09 30

At the Newmarket Police Court a solicitor on behalf of Greene, King & Sons, brewers, said there was a real difficulty in Ashley in obtaining premises for the sub Post Office and he proposed that it should be attached to the Crown Public House. In order to do this it would be necessary to carry out structural alterations. Nobody could enter the public house through the Post Office, or the Post Office through the public house. If it were possible to get another property it would be desirable to do so as the language at a public house was not always of the best

Please make what use of this you may. Kindly remember where it came from – www.mikepetty.org.uk

1926 10 16

Ashley post office, p3

1927 10 29

Ashley water, p3

1929 05 11

Ashley runaway wedding, p5

1930

1937 07 16

Newmarket RDC wanted to continue the clearance of unfit dwellings. The first tenants had been satisfactorily rehoused in decent homes, most being eager to take possession of new cottages. At Ashley three dwellings near the Plough Inn were damp and dilapidated; the owner had to bear the cost of clearing them without compensation but she would still own the land. At Cheveley the owner complained that a property had been inspected after phenomenal rain when water from the pond had swamped it, undermining the end wall. At Stetchworth three dwellings at the rear of the 'Live and Let Live' were damp and insanitary, an inspector was told. 37 07 16c & d

1940

1940 07 06

Cottages gutted Moulton Road Ashley – 40 07 06a

1940 07 19

Leys boys on the land. — Boys from the Leys School, Cambridge (writes Watchman) have formed themselves into teams working under the supervision of their own masters for seasonal work on the land. They have recently been engaged on sugar beet hoeing. The July number of the 'Sugar Beet Review' has two pictures of them, taken on Mr. R. B. Taylor's farm, Ashley, near Newmarket, where the boys put in several days' work. About 50 boys were engaged on each occasion, with four or five masters, and they made an excellent job of about five acres per visit. Mr. Taylor — who has a 150-acre contract with the Bury St. Edmunds factory — first demonstrated how the work should be done, and then left supervision entirely to the schoolmasters. It speaks well both for the boys and their masters, that, with their help, more than 100 acres were singled. 40 07 19

1950

1950 03 03

Since fire service tenders have been maintaining a supply of water to five Cambridgeshire villages after a break-down at one of Newmarket RDC's pumping stations. It was found that only 4,500 gallons were available at the station which has a normal output of 30,000 gallons per day. The fire service instituted a shuttle service between the pumping station and a hydrant in Newmarket. The villages affected are Ashley, Cheveley, Wood Ditton, Kirtling and Saxon Street. The council has just received approval for at £82,000 water scheme which they have been pressing for some time

1960s The Cambridgeshire Collection has newspaper cuttings files from this date

1960

1961 12 22

Throughout the year the CIP carried a series of feature articles relating to Cambridgeshire villages. They included Ashley-cum-Silverley – 61 12 22 & a CIP

1965 11 12

Kirtling may combine with Ashley – 65 11 12

1970

1976 03 19

Six primary schools in Cambridgeshire villages may have to close next year. Schools at Wood Ditton, Kirtling, Chippenham, Horseheath, Quy and Madingley have been shortlisted from a number of schools with less than 75 pupils which the county council feels may no longer be viable for educational or economic reasons. Other schools with few pupils include Ashley (30 pupils), Black Horse Drove (40), Castle Camps (55), Dullingham (30) and Stuntney (40)

1976 12 01

Parents with children at several small village schools have lost their fight to stop them from being closed when Cambridgeshire County Council backed closure because they are no longer a viable proposition. The schools are at Madingley, Ashley, Kirtling, Chippenham, Wood Ditton, Hemingford Abbots and Coldham near Wisbech. Some have fewer than 30 pupils and are housed in outdated buildings. Councillor Margaret Shaw said "Village schools are the heart of our county". But hard decisions must be taken in times of financial difficulty. The Council also agreed that more than 70 places it provides at the Perse and Kimbolton schools should in future be 'assisted; and not free

1978 06 12

About 800 of the country's small rural schools have vanished in the past 10 years. Financially county councils claim there are not viable. But in Cambridgeshire four small villages have had a scheme approved which they hope will save their schools. Ashley, Cheveley, Wood Ditton and Kirtling have formed a Schools Federation, creating one school from four, but without the loss of any. Each will be maintained under one administration, rather than four, cutting costs and increasing the scope for improved facilities and a broader education. There will be one headmaster and six assistant teachers and a larger range of reading books which will float between the schools.

1979 02 20

Ashley is to lose the ducks which have made their home on the village pond for as long as anyone can remember. The wild mallards have to go because they are eating all the plants and silting up the pond with their droppings. The pond has between 18 to 30 ducks on it although the water area is only big enough to support about four. At the moment it looks very unhealthy and if something is not done soon it will begin to smell like a sewer, say the Parish Council. Now the Ashley Pond Preservation Society has decided to move the ducks to somewhere with more water.

1980

1981 06 05

When an Ashley pensioner was told how much it would cost to restore her Tudor cottage, she decided to do the job herself. Now, despite having arthritis in all her joints, she is working to turn her 300-year-old ruin into a dream house. The cottage had been empty for eight years, the roof needed rethatching and she could see daylight through the walls. She has torn out ceilings, dug up floors with a garden fork and laid new foundations. One advantage of working on an old house is that it doesn't matter if the beams and plastering aren't perfectly straight, she said. 81 06 05c

1985 11 15

Properties in Silverley Way, Ashley are being demolished because they are claimed to be unsafe. But despite repeated efforts workmen have been unable to remove one of the controversial concrete and steel 'Airey Houses'. They attached a cable to the back wall and tried to pull it down with a digger, but the wheels just spun. After a day pulling and shovelling all they achieved was to shake loose a few tiles and smash a couple of windows. The council says there are various faults in the design and they would need extensive repairs 85 11 15a

Please make what use of this you may. Kindly remember where it came from – www.mikepetty.org.uk

